



Announcement

1st Call for Proposals for Joint Research and Development (R&D) Projects between German and Brazilian Companies

Deadlines for proposal submissions: **March 3, June 30, October 30, 2017**

Considering the Joint Declaration of Intent on bilateral co-operation in research, development and innovation, the governments of Brazil and Germany signed on August 20th, 2015, both countries present the programme below, in which each government shall provide support to its companies for engaging in collaborative R&D projects, once they are approved by both sides.

1. Scope

Germany and Brazil are announcing a call for proposals for joint R&D projects between German and Brazilian companies focusing on developing innovative products, technology-based services, processes or methods in all technological and application areas which have strong market potential.

The programme is jointly run by the Secretariat of Innovation in the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of Brazil (hereinafter "MDIC") and The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter "BMWi").

The BMWi will provide German companies access to public funding for joint projects provided by the BMWi's ZIM programme (Central Innovation Programme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).

The Secretariat of Innovation in the MDIC will support Brazilian companies through the process of funding, to which it will use resources from the Brazilian Development Bank (hereinafter "BNDES") and other funding institutions.

1.1 The micro and small Brazilian companies may also get support from the Micro and Small Business Support Service (hereinafter "Sebrae") for the procurement of technology services supportable by the Sebraetec Program.

1.2 The Brazilian companies that develop R&D projects in line with the technological competences and action guidelines of the Brazilian Company for Industrial Research and Development (Embrapii) may also get support from the aforementioned institution to develop their projects jointly with Embrapii units. For further information access: www.embrapii.org.br

MDIC and AiF Projekt GmbH (Project management agency for the BMWi) will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.

2. Call Structure

The present call invites German and Brazilian enterprises to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects according to the following procedures:

2.1 Requirements

The cooperation proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

2.1.1 The proposal for cooperation must involve at least one Brazilian company and one Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) from Germany, which contribute considerably to the project, for the development of new products, services and processes of industrial application leading to commercialization in the domestic and/or global markets.

2.1.2 The new product/process/service must be innovative, relevant for a potential market, with technological risk and add value to the economies of both countries.

2.1.3 The participation of at least one company in each country is mandatory. Research institutes and additional companies are welcome as cooperation partners or sub-contractors according to each country's funding regulations.

2.1.4 Companies must demonstrate a strategy that, given its technological, commercial and financial aspects, highlights its potential to introduce the new product/process/service into the markets of both countries and/or third countries.

2.1.5 The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two jurisdictions (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, for example).

2.1.6 The project must demonstrate adequate balance and complementarity between the two industrial partners, regarding the phases of research and development.

2.1.7 The project partners should agree in advance on the allocation of intellectual property (IP) rights between their companies, as well as the commercialization strategy. This agreement must reflect a reasonable allocation and a fair return for both partners on their investment. Applicants will be requested to submit the information above on their Common Proposal Application Form and Cooperation Agreement, for the German counterpart.

2.1.8 The partners in Germany and in Brazil must be capable of implementing the project and funding their respective share.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

3. Submission Guidelines

3.1 The Common Proposal Application Form

3.1.1 The Common Proposal Application Form is available for download at www.zim-bmwi.de/internationale-fue-kooperationen and www.cooperacaointernacional.mdic.gov.br

3.1.2 Before the call deadline all participants should send the Common Proposal Application Form electronically to international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de and brasilemanha@mdic.gov.br

3.1.3 The Common Proposal Application Form must be filled in by both partners in English.

3.2. German Companies

3.2.1 All German applicants must file national ZIM applications according to the following rules: Every German partner files one ZIM application as an electronic PDF form to AiF Projekt GmbH. All German SMEs, which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organisations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on www.zim-bmwi.de/kooperationsprojekte. The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language.

3.2.2 The Cooperation Agreement is a formal agreement between the project partners, required by the German side. It must be signed by both partners.

The minimum requirements for the Cooperation Agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with effort estimates in man months
- Identifying and naming any 3rd party contractors required in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (new and old)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- If research organizations from Germany are involved a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

3.2.3 A draft of the Cooperation Agreement should be sent electronically to international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de alongside the Common Proposal Application Form.

3.3 Brazilian companies

Brazilian companies must fulfil additional information contained on Annex I, available alongside the Common Proposal Application Form at www.cooperacaointernacional.mdic.gov.br.

4. Evaluation and approval

The approval of the cooperation proposals by both governments, as well as the communication of that approval to the selected companies, will proceed intermittently and will follow the chronological order of presentation of the proposals along the duration of the call.

5. Financing and Support

Eligible project participants from Germany and Brazil will finance their costs from the national funding schemes and complementarily from their own resources. Funding of companies is contingent upon approval by both sides.

5.1 In Brazil

3.1.1 The Brazilian Committee (coordinated by MDIC) will qualify and ask Brazilian companies to send the financing request of the approved cooperation proposals to the funding agencies which will evaluate them independently and in accordance with their respective operational policies.

3.1.2 The support requested by the Brazilian companies to BNDES and other funding institutions may be granted according to the rules and operating procedures of each institution as well as the applicable legislation in force.

3.1.3 All projects supported in the framework of the Embrapii System must include previously established investment shares from Embrapii Units and partner companies. The companies' share must necessarily be financial and directly applied in the execution of the contracted projects.

3.1.4 The Brazilian companies supported to develop projects jointly with Embrapii Units may also request financing to BNDES and other funding institutions. In this case, the requested financing may be granted according to the available credit lines and the rules and operating procedures of each institution as well as the applicable legislation in force.

5.2 In Germany

The AiF-Projekt GmbH will evaluate the project application from German applicants according to the guidelines of the ZIM program.

5.3 Analysis of the financing request

The decision about the financial support and the conditions of this support is a prerogative of the funding institutions of each country, which will independently analyse the funding requests, according to the operational policies of each institution.

6. Schedule

The proposed technological cooperation formalized under this Call for Proposals should follow the following schedule:

Activity	Date
Official launch of the call by MDIC and BMWi	20 th August 2015
Official extension of the call by MDIC and BMWi	30 th October 2016
Deadline for the 1 st "cut of date" for proposals	3 rd March, 2017
Deadline for the 2 nd "cut of date" for proposals	30 th June 2017
Deadline for the call for proposals	30 th October 2017
Deadline to publicize the cooperation proposals approved by both sides	28 th February, 2018

7. Publication of Results

The results of the evaluation of this Call will be released by the competent body in each country, observing the rules and operating procedures of each institution and the applicable laws.

6.1 The publication on the Brazilian side will be on the website www.cooperacaointernacional.mdic.gov.br

6.2 The publication on the German side will be on the website www.zim-bmwi.de

Information regarding the request for financial assistance will be disclosed only to the applicant company, observing the rules and operating procedures of each institution, as well as applicable laws.

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